

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A process for analyzing a biological sample, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) identifying a micro-organism present within the sample; and
 - (b) determining the effect of one or more antimicrobial(s) on a micro-organism from the sample, wherein determining the effect of one or more antimicrobial(s) comprises adding an antimicrobial at a pre-determined concentration to a sample, incubating the sample in the presence of the antimicrobial for a pre-determined time period under conditions that allow some growth of the micro-organism, and assessing the number of microorganisms in the sample at the end of the pre-determined time period;
wherein steps (a) and (b) are performed by analyzing the micro-organism's nucleic acid₁.
2. (Original) The process of claim1, wherein step (a) involves a nucleic acid hybridization assay.
3. (Original) The process of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein step (b) involves a nucleic acid hybridization assay.
4. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 or claim 2, wherein step (a) and/or step (b) involves amplification of nucleic acid from the micro-organism.
5. (Original) The process of claim 4, wherein nucleic acid amplification uses the polymerase chain reaction.
6. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~4 or claim 5~~, wherein nucleic acid amplification uses primers which are specific to a micro-organism of interest.

7. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the micro-organism's DNA is analysed.
8. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the micro-organism's RNA is analysed.
9. (Original) The process of claim 7 or claim 8, wherein said DNA or RNA is a rRNA or rDNA.
10. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein micro-organisms are extracted from the sample prior to step (a).
11. (Currently amended) The process of claim 10, wherein micro-organisms are extracted by immunomagnetic separation.
12. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the antimicrobial(s) used in step (b) are selected based on the results of step (a).
13. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein step (b) involves a comparison with data obtained in step (a).
14. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the micro-organism is a bacterium, a fungus, a parasite or a virus.
15. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the antimicrobial is an antibiotic, an antimycotic or an antiviral.